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Remarks

Claims 13 to 24 are cancelled without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application thereon and claims 25 and 27 are amended. Accordingly, claims 25 to 30 are pending in this application of which only claim 25 is in independent form.

The declaration was defective for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the action and a supplemental declaration executed by the two inventors, Jörg Lehmann and Heiko Grünberg, has been submitted under a separate transmittal letter. The supplemental declaration was needed because Messrs. Lehmann and Grünberg had made changes to their respective residences and post office addresses without initialing and dating the same. The supplemental declaration should correct the above noted defect.

Applicants' attorney thanks Examiner Maki for the telephone interview held on December 17, 2010 wherein the applicants presented a proposed amendment to claim 25 responding to the 35 USC 112, first paragraph, rejection noted in the action. Claim 25 is amended herein as discussed in the telephone interview of December 17th except that "material strip" has been changed to -- strip of material -- so as to be consistent with the antecedent. It was mutually agreed that the amendment overcomes the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The antecedent basis for the amendment of claim 25 is set forth on page 4, lines 2 to 5, of the applicants' specification.

On page 3 of the action, claims 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the

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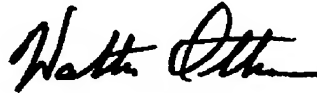
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reasons set forth in the action. Claim 27 is amended as suggested by the Examiner by deleting "for releasably attaching" and substituting therefor -- and releasably connecting --.

Also, the specification was objected to for failing to provide a proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, applicants have amended the specification to incorporate lines 10 to 27 of claim 25 as suggested in the action.

The application should now be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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